TECHNICAL NOTES

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Small Treating Tank For On-the-Farm Applications of Wood Preservatives

Although the use of treated posts and lumber on farms has increased rapidly during the past few years, even greater use of treated material is desirable. For maximum protection from decay hazards under severe service conditions (in contact with soil or high-moisture conditions) wood thoroughly treated by pressure processes with established preservatives is recommended. There are many occasions, however, where material treated by these and other processes, capable of providing thorough treatment, is not readily available in small quantities for local needs. There are also conditions in buildings where protection against decay is needed but maximum protection is not feasible. Under such circumstances it is possible to add many years to the service life of lumber and posts by cold-soaking framed and machined material in accepted wood preservatives.

Such cold-soaking treatment can be accomplished in a simple, low-cost treating tank of the type described in this Note. A pictorial sketch of a small portable tank is shown on the back of this sheet. The 28-gauge galvanized iron tank supported by a wood frame is provided with a galvanized iron cover that serves also as a drainboard for the treated lumber. As many as nine 1-inch boards, 12 inches wide and 16 feet long, can be accommodated at one time. Lumber and posts being treated are held submerged in the solution with one or more concrete weights. About 50 gallons of solution are necessary for starting normal treating operations.

As scrap lumber is usually available on the farm and most farmers can do their own soldering, the tank will make an inexpensive as well as a useful piece of farm equipment.

Assemble the five tank support frames and nail them securely to the skids which are preferably of treated material. Attach boards for tank shell. Cut, bend (this could best be done with a sheet metal brake), and assemble metal lining and cover. Metal joints should be riveted and soldered. A 3/4-inch brass pipe lock nut, soldered to the under side of the lining around a 1-inch drain hole, will accommodate a 3/4-inch short nipple and cap for draining the tank. A recess in the tank shell should be provided for the lock nut. The reinforced sheet metal cover serves as a drainboard for the tank as shown in the pictorial sketch.

When inflammable material such as oil is used for a solvent for the wood preservative, the tank should be located at least 50 feet from other farm structures.

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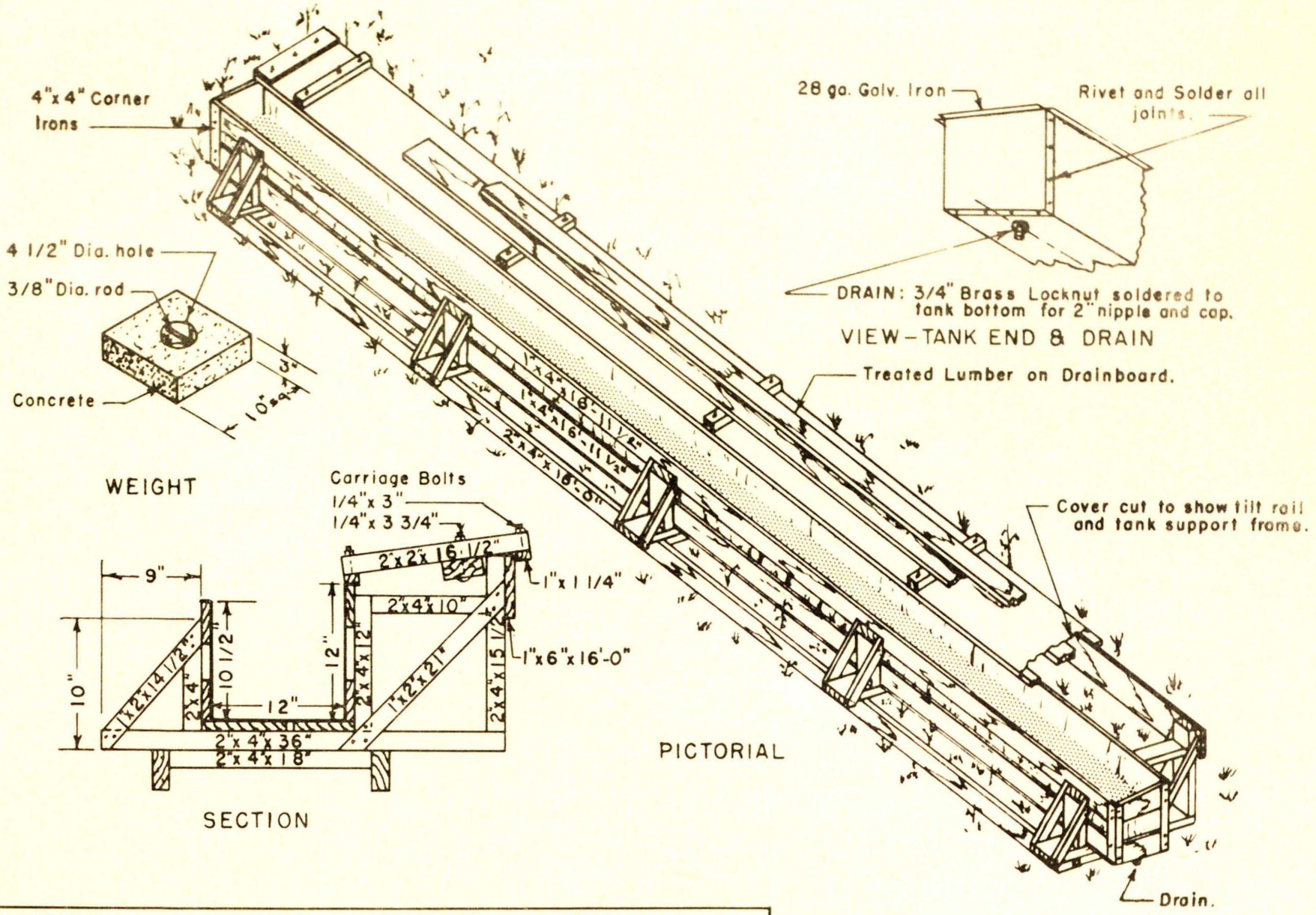

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA — AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

TREATING TANK FOR WOOD PRESERVATIVES

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